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CAPT. COOK.

THE obscure village of Marton, in Yorkshire, gave birth to this famous circumnavigator, October 27, 1728. His father was a common husbandman; and his education nothing more than reading, writing, and the first rules of arithmetick. At thirteen, he went apprentice to a shopkeeper; but, obtaining his discharge, bound himself for seven years to a Whitby vessel employed in the coal trade.

In 1755, when hostilities commenced with France, the dread of being pressed, induced him voluntarily to enter on board the Eagle, a sixty-gun ship, commanded by Sir Hugh Palliser; where his diligence and ability soon attracted the notice of this excellent officer: and, in 1759, Sir Hugh pronouncing him qualified, he was appointed master of the Mercury, and joined the fleet under Sir Charles Saunders, at the memorable siege of Quebec. On this occasion, though he had scarcely ever before used a pencil, he contrived, partly in the face of the enemy, to make a chart of the channel and soundings of the River St. Lawrence, which is esteemed so accurate, that no other has ever been published.

December 21, 1762, he married Miss Elizabeth Batts, of Barking, in Essex: and, from 1763 to 1767, was chiefly employed, by government, as marine surveyor of Newfoundland and Labradore; where he made such progress in science, that his ingenious Observation of an Eclipse of the Sun, at Newfoundland, August 5, 1766, communicated to the Royal Society, was printed in the Philosophical Transactions.

In July 1768, he sailed with Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Solander, under the patronage of the king, to make observations, in a southern latitude, on the transit of Venus over the Sun, and to explore the Pacifick Ocean.

How ably he fulfilled this commission, is known to all the world: and such was his majesty's approbation, that in April 1772, he was engaged to make his second celebrated voyage, with Capt. Furneaux; for the particulars of which the Narrative of his Voyages must be resorted to.

The object of his third, and unfortunately his last voyage, was to determine the practicability of a northern passage to the Pacifick Ocean, accompanied by Capt. Clerke: when sufficient evidence appeared, to demonstrate that no such passage exists; and the western boundaries of the great continent of America were compleatly ascertained. On his return, however, in a sudden affray with the natives, at Owhyee, one of the Sandwich islands, Capt. Cook was killed, February 14, 1779. Thus perished, by the hand of a savage, this able man; whose vigorous mind, and undaunted resolution, had conducted him through innumerable enterprizes of the most imminent danger, and whose distinguished services can never cease to be remembered by a grateful and a generous nation.